

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An improved process for the preparation of a cellulose solution for spinning of fibres, filaments or films there from comprising in the steps of:

i) activating cellulose in a mixture containing said cellulose, tertiary amine oxide solvent, activator and water for a period sufficient to allow a swelling of the cellulose by introduction therein of water present in said mixtures, to obtain activated cellulose, the temperature of said activation step and concentration of solvent being such that the solvent is not converted into its monohydrate state during the step of activation;

ii) the activated cellulose ~~mixture~~ being subjected to the steps of dissolution of cellulose in the solvent by heating under reduced pressure for removal of water so as to convert the solvent into at least its monohydrate form so as to cause a dissolution.

Claim 2 (Original): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein an activator is added to said mixture, said activator selected from Glycols and Glymes.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said amine oxide is ~~a cyclic tertiary amine oxide, preferably~~ N-Methyl Morpholine N-Oxide (NMMO).

Claim 4 (Original): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cellulose is selected from rayon pulp and cotton linter pulp.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said solvent ~~used to form the mixture contains 40-70% NMMO in water~~ is a mixture of about 40% to about 70% NMMO by weight and about 30% to about 60% water by weight.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of activation is carried out for a period of 20-60 minutes ~~and preferably for 30-40 minutes.~~

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature of said activation step is maintained in the range of 70°-115°C, ~~and preferably at 30° to 90°C.~~

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of dissolution comprises ~~on~~ heating the activated ~~mixture~~ cellulose at a temperature of 70° to 120°C, ~~and preferably at 80° to 105°C.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 8, ~~wherein~~ wherein the step of dissolution of the activated ~~mixture~~ cellulose is carried out ~~be~~ heating under reduced pressure.

Claim 11 (Original): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of dissolution is carried out for 40 to 150 minutes.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said activator is present in an amount of ~~upto 3%~~ 0.1% to about 3.0% by weight of the cellulose.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein a said cellulose solution ~~containing 7-28% cellulose, 65-80% NMMO and 5-15% water is obtained~~ contains from about 7% to about 28% by weight dry cellulose, from about 65% to about 80% by weight tertiary amine oxide and from 5% to 15% by weight water.

Claims 15-18 (Canceled)